

# PAHC NEWS

News and Information about Patterson Army Health Clinic

## Commander's Update – COL Eric Olins

Thank you for your continuing feedback regarding PAHC News. We have listened to your ideas and will continue to incorporate many of your suggestions. Based on your feedback and concerns, we have extended the closure date for PAHC. PAHC will now close on 30 June 2011. This includes the clinics, pharmacy, X-ray and lab. We anticipate being able to continue to provide medical care to all categories of beneficiaries until this date. However, staffing changes over the next year may affect this date. We will continue to keep you informed of all changes. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to explore your TRICARE options and determine which is the best plan is for you and your family. Visit the Health Net Federal Services TRICARE site at <https://www.hnfs.net/common/home/> and review these plans. As always, the staff at the TRICARE Service Center (TSC), located on the first floor of PAHC is available to assist and answer your questions. You may contact them by calling 1-877-874-2273 and asking to speak to the Patterson TSC.

## Did you know?

Did you know that when you turn 65, your TRICARE Prime enrollment ends? If you have are about to, or have recently turned 65, you are now Medicare eligible. You must sign up for Medicare Part A and Part B to become eligible for TRICARE For Life (TFL). The TRICARE for Life Handbook contains information about your TFL benefits and may be obtained by going to the Patterson TRICARE Service Center or at <http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/product.aspx?id=502&CID=71&RID=3>>

## Connect with TRICARE!

Want to learn about the most up-to date TRICARE news? Now you can. Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions)

Connect with TRICARE on Facebook and Twitter at [www.facebook.com/tricare](http://www.facebook.com/tricare) and [www.twitter.com/tricare](http://www.twitter.com/tricare)

### **PAHC News:**

is a newsletter highlighting news and information for our beneficiaries both before and after our closure date

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## TRICARE

TRICARE has several plans, many of which you are probably familiar with; Prime, Standard, Extra, TRICARE For Life and TRICARE Reserve Select. In each issue, we will focus on one of these plans. TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS): Is a premium based health plan available Worldwide to selected Reserve members of the Ready reserve (and their families) who are not eligible for or enrolled in the Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) program or currently covered under FEHB, either under their own eligibility of through a family member. When enrolled in TRS, you may visit any TRICARE-authorized provider, network or non-network. Care of a MTF is on a space-available basis only. You do not need a referral for any type of care but some services may require prior authorization. The type of provider you see determines how much you'll pay out of pocket. If you see a network provider, you will pay less and the provider will file the claims for you. TRS premium rates are established annually and you are required to pay the monthly premiums if you decide to enroll. 2010 premiums are \$46.62 per month for member only; member and family coverage is \$197.65 per month. After meeting the annual deductible, you are responsible to pay a cost-share (or percentage). Is TRS right for you? It's a great option for you and your

family if you are: a member of the Selected Reserves of the Ready Reserve; not on active duty orders or covered by the Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) and not eligible for or enrolled in FEHB. TRS provides comprehensive health care coverage when you're not activated and covered by active duty benefits. Because you can see any provider, you don't have to change providers if you already have one. For more information, go to:

<http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit>

With the impending closure of Patterson Army Health Clinic, you are strongly encouraged to start determining where you will receive your health care after June 2011. We realize that we can only provide a brief overview of the different TRICARE plans and strongly recommend you visit the TRICARE Service Center, located on the first floor of Patterson Army Health Clinic. They have a lot of information regarding your TRICARE benefits and can assist you in finding a provider who accepts TRICARE and Medicare. All our beneficiaries, regardless of your TRICARE status, are encouraged to come in and speak with the TRICARE Service Center staff. They can be a great asset to you in explaining what TRICARE programs may be best for you and assisting you in locating

a primary care manager.

## LAST MINUTE NEWS!

Due to decreased staffing, the laboratory and radiology sections will be closed every day from 1200-1300 hours.

Did you know that you can self-refer for a routine mammogram? Call Radiology at 732-532-3195 to make an appointment.

School physicals – it's that time of year again! To make an appointment for a school physical, call the Appointment Line at 732-532-7475; 732-532-5974 or 732-532-1244. Don't wait until the last minute! These appointments book quickly!

A reminder – if you cannot make your appointment, please let us know ahead of time! We can then offer that appointment to someone else. Call the appointment line (numbers listed above) to cancel. Thank you!

Do you have questions or comments about PAHC, services provided, BRAC and its impact on your healthcare? Call the Patient Rep at 732-532-1328 for assistance.

## MAIL ORDER PHARMACY

We have received a lot of questions regarding pharmacy benefits when PAHC closes. We recommend using the Mail Order Pharmacy if you are on long-term (chronic) medication. You are eligible to receive up to a 90 day supply of your medication which will be delivered to your front door. Generic medications are \$3; brand-name medications are \$9 and non-formulary medications are \$22. If you need a short term medication (such as an antibiotic or pain med); you may have these filled at a network civilian pharmacy (up to a 30 day supply, same cost as noted above). There are restrictions on certain medications and cost will vary depending on which TRICARE Plan you have (Prime, Extra, Standard, etc) and if you have other health insurance (OHI). Information regarding your pharmacy benefits may be obtained from the TRICARE Service Center, calling the TRICARE Pharmacy Program at 1-877-363-1303 or by going to [www.tricare.mil/pharmacy](http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy)

## SPECIAL DRUG REQUESTS

Starting 1 October 2010, Patterson Army Health Clinic will no longer accept Special Drug Requests. These are non-formulary medications that your provider would like you to use, which are not normally stocked in the clinic's pharmacy and require special ordering. After 1 October, like now, you can fill these medications utilizing the Mail Order Pharmacy (Express Scripts) or a TRICARE retail network pharmacy, such as CVS, Rite Aid or Walgreens. Refills for patients who currently have non-formulary prescriptions, will be honored until the refills run out or the prescription expires. If you have any questions or concerns, please stop by or call the pharmacy. They will gladly help. The pharmacy number is (732) 532-2551.

## Is your child college bound?

Is your child heading to college this year? Do you know what coverage they have under TRICARE? Your child remains eligible for TRICARE until age 21; this coverage may be extended if they are enrolled full time at an accredited institution and you provide more than 50% of their financial support. It is very important to ensure their DEERS information is correct and if they are over the age of 21, you must contact the ID card section for assistance regarding documentation to update their DEERS status. If your child is going away to college, they must enroll in whatever region the school is. If TRICARE Prime is not available, they will be eligible for TRICARE Standard, Extra or Reserve Select. If they have a student health plan or other health insurance, TRICARE will be the secondary payer. Call Health Net Federal Services (HNFS) at 1-888-874-2273 or visit a TRICARE Service Center to learn more and ensure your child has the appropriate coverage. The HNFS website can also help you learn more; go to [www.hnfs.net/common/home](http://www.hnfs.net/common/home)

## Give us your feedback

This newsletter is for you, our beneficiaries. We welcome your feedback, input and suggestions on how to make the newsletter better. Contact our patient representative, Michele Steinert at 732-532-1328 or via e-mail at [Michele.Steinert@us.army.mil](mailto:Michele.Steinert@us.army.mil) with your ideas and we will incorporate them in future editions.

## Important BRAC Dates

**1 Jan 2011**

Clinic ceases performing Line of Duty (LOD) evaluations on NG and Reserve Soldiers

**30 Jun 2011**

**Patterson Army Health Clinic closes**  
(includes all clinics, lab, X-ray and Pharmacy services)





## **Save Time: Pay Enrollment Fees Electronically**

Falls Church, Va. - Military retirees and their families enrolled in TRICARE Prime pay an annual enrollment fee. Prime beneficiaries can pay electronically two different ways – direct withdrawal from their retirement pay allotment or by creating an electronic funds transfer (EFT) linked to a bank account.

Visit Health Net's (our regional contractor) website, listed below, to download and fill out the required form to get started. You must mail the completed form back to Health Net. The system does not allow electronic form submissions.

Once the forms are received and authorized, TRICARE Prime fees are automatically deducted from your retirement pay or bank account monthly. You have to pay three months up front, before you can start making monthly payments. When enrolled you will also be able to view your online payment history and claims status at anytime.

Both payment methods are safe and convenient options that free you from the worry of missing a payment or defaulting on coverage. As always, mail-in payments are accepted and pay-by-phone is also available. Check Health Net's website at:

[www.hnfs.bene/enrollment/fees/Enrollment+Fees-Payments.htm](http://www.hnfs.bene/enrollment/fees/Enrollment+Fees-Payments.htm)

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### **PATTERSON ARMY HEALTH CLINIC**

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